

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 8, 16, and 24, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 1-7, 9-15, and 17-23 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

Sub B1 1. (Amended) A device searching apparatus that searches for at least one device on a network, comprising:

management means for managing a database that includes identification information for identifying a device on the network and attribute information associated therewith;

input means for entering a search condition about a device function in order to search for a desired device on the network;

search means for searching for a device from the database that satisfies the search condition entered using said input means;

recognition means for recognizing whether a number of devices that satisfy the search condition is greater than a predetermined number;

output means for outputting a search result that includes identification information and attribute information of a device that satisfies the search condition; and

control means for controlling said search means to request an additional search for additional attribute information of the device, in accordance with a recognition result of said

recognition means.

2. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a volume of attribute information outputted by said output means when said recognition means recognizes that the number of devices that satisfy the search condition is more than the predetermined number is greater than a volume of attribute information outputted by said output means when said recognition means recognizes that the number of devices that satisfy the search condition is less than the predetermined number.

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3. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:
communication means for acquiring device information, registered corresponding to identification information in another apparatus on the network, from the other apparatus,

wherein said control means controls said communication means to acquire additional information on each device identified in the search result, and causes the additional information to be added to the search result.

4. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said control means is adapted to acquire, from an apparatus that manages location information of devices on the network, location information of each device identified in the search result, and to add the location information to the search result.

5. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said control means is adapted to acquire, from an apparatus that manages charge information of devices on the network, charge information of each device identified in the search result, and to add the charge information to the search result.

6. (Amended) A device searching apparatus that searches for at least one device on a network, comprising:

management means for managing a database that includes identification information for identifying a device on the network and static information associated therewith;

input means for entering a search condition about a device function in order to search for a desired device on the network;

search means for searching for a device from the database that satisfies the search condition entered using said input means;

output means for outputting a search result that includes identification information and static information of a device that satisfies the search condition;

control means for adding dynamic information to the search result, according to a number of devices that satisfy the search condition; and

discrimination means for discriminating a device with a high frequency of use, based on the dynamic information, which relates to a use history of devices on the network,

wherein, in a case in which the number of devices that satisfy the search condition is zero, said control means adds to the search result information of the device with a

high frequency of use discriminated using said discrimination means.

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7. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, in a case in which a number of devices identified in the search result is at least equal to a predetermined value, said control means is adapted to acquire dynamic information from a device that satisfies the search condition and to add the dynamic information to the search result.

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9. (Amended) A device searching method for searching for at least one device on a network, comprising steps of:

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managing a database that includes identification information for identifying a device on the network and attribute information associated therewith;

entering a search condition about a device function in order to search for a desired device on the network;

searching for a device from the database that satisfies the search condition entered in said entering step;

recognizing whether a number of devices that satisfy the search condition is greater than a predetermined number;

outputting a search result that includes identification information and attribute information of a device that satisfies the search condition; and

controlling said searching step to request an additional search for additional attribute information of the device, in accordance with a recognition result of said recognizing

step.

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10. (Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein a volume of attribute information outputted in said outputting step when said recognizing step recognizes that the number of devices that satisfy the search condition is more than a predetermined number is greater than a volume of attribute information outputted in said outputting step when said recognizing step recognizes that the number of devices that satisfy the search condition is less than the predetermined number.

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 10, further comprising a step of:
receiving device information, registered corresponding to identification information in another apparatus on the network, from the other apparatus,
wherein said controlling step controls said receiving step to acquire additional information on each device identified in the search result, and causes the additional information to be added to the search result.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein said controlling step includes acquiring, from an apparatus that manages location information of devices on the network, location information of each device identified in the search result, and adding the location information to the search result.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein said controlling step includes acquiring, from an apparatus that manages charge information of devices on the network, charge information of each device identified in the search result, and adding the charge information to the search result.

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14. (Amended) A device searching method for searching for at least one device on a network, comprising steps of:

managing a database that includes identification information for identifying a device on the network and static information associated therewith;

entering a search condition about a device function in order to search for a desired device on the network;

searching for a device from the database that satisfies the search condition entered in said entering step;

outputting a search result that includes identification information and static information of a device that satisfies the search condition;

adding dynamic information to the search result, according to a number of devices that satisfy the search condition; and

discriminating a device with a high frequency of use, based on the dynamic information, which relates to a use history of devices on the network,

wherein, in a case in which the number of devices that satisfy the search condition is zero, said adding step adds information of the device with a high frequency of use

discriminated in said discriminating step to the search result.

15. (Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein, in a case in which a number of devices identified in the search result is at least equal to a predetermined value, said adding step includes acquiring dynamic information from a device that satisfies the search condition and adding the dynamic information to the search result.

17. (Amended) A memory medium storing a computer program to be executed by a computer to implement a device searching method for searching for at least one device on a network, the method comprising steps of:

managing a database that includes identification information for identifying a device on the network and attribute information associated therewith;

entering a search condition about a device function in order to search for a desired device on the network;

searching for a device from the database that satisfies the search condition entered in the entering step;

recognizing whether a number of devices that satisfy the search condition is greater than a predetermined number;

outputting a search result that includes identification information and attribute information of device that satisfies the search condition; and

controlling the searching step to request an additional search for additional

attribute information of the device, in accordance with a recognition result of the recognizing step.

18. (Amended) A memory medium according to claim 17, wherein a volume of attribute information outputted in the outputting step when the recognizing step recognizes that the number of devices that satisfy the search condition is more than a predetermined number is greater than a volume of attribute information outputted in the outputting step when the recognizing step recognizes that the number of devices that satisfy the search condition is less than the predetermined number.

19. (Amended) A memory medium according to claim 18, wherein the method further comprises a step of:

receiving device information, registered corresponding to the identification information in another apparatus on the network, from the other apparatus,

wherein the controlling step controls the receiving step to acquire additional information on each device identified in the search result, and to add the additional information to the search result.

20. (Amended) A memory medium according to claim 19, wherein the controlling step includes acquiring, from an apparatus that manages location information of devices on the network, location information of each device identified in the search result, and

adding the location information to the search result.

21. (Amended) A memory medium according to claim 19, wherein the controlling step includes acquiring, from an apparatus that manages charge information of devices on the network, charge information of each device identified in the search result, and adding the charge information to the search result.

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22. (Amended) A memory medium storing a computer program to be executed by a computer to implement a device searching method for searching for at least one device on a network, the method comprising steps of:

managing a database that includes identification information for identifying a device on the network and static information associated therewith;

entering a search condition about a device function in order to search for a desired device on the network;

searching for a device from the database that satisfies the search condition entered in the entering step;

outputting a search result that includes identification information and static information of a device that satisfies the search condition;

adding dynamic information to the search result, according to a number of devices that satisfy the search condition; and

discriminating a device with a high frequency of use, based on the dynamic